

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a current listing of claims and will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer readable storage medium storing instructions that when executed by a computer system connected to a network are capable of causing the computer system to:

define a meta-folder as a type of graphical element, wherein an instantiation of the meta-folder graphical element type is associative with 1) one or more search objects having corresponding search criteria and 2) one or more conventional objects;

display, via a first graphical interface of the computer system, a first graphical representation of a first meta-folder instantiated on the computer system;

upon selection of the first meta-folder via the first graphical interface:

for any search objects associated with the first meta-folder, initiate searching the computer system and the network for conventional objects that satisfy the corresponding search criteria; and

display, via the first graphical interface, graphical elements representing 1) any conventional objects located as a result of the searching and 2) any conventional objects otherwise associated with the first meta-folder.

24. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network.

25. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a wide area network.

26. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes the Internet.

27. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network, a wide area network or the Internet and the network includes a collection of storage systems for storing at least some of the conventional objects located as a result of the searching.

28. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network and a wide area network.

29. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network and the Internet.

30. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a wide area network and the Internet.

31. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a local area network, a wide area network and the Internet.

32. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the network includes a user server connected to the computer system.

33. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the user server stores the first meta-folder.

34. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 33, wherein the user server stores at least some of the conventional objects located as a result of the searching.

35. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to the computer system via a local area network.

36. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to the computer system via a wide area network.

37. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to the computer system via the Internet.

38. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to a content server via the Internet.

39. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 38, wherein the content server is a web-page server, an FTP server or a news server.

40. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 32, wherein the user server is connected to a vendor server via the Internet.

41. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 40, wherein the first meta-folder is stored on the vendor server or the user server.

42. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 40, wherein the vendor server includes a search engine or media products.

43. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 40, wherein the vendor server includes media products including books, video tapes, DVDs, CDs and audio cassettes.

44. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the computer system to initiate a transfer of the first meta-folder via the network.

45. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 44, wherein the transfer occurs through electronic mail.

46. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein conventional objects include conventional folders, conventional files, electronic mail, notes, contact or address book items, or files containing text, audio or video information.

47. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the search criteria include wildcard characters.

48-49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the first meta-folder includes descriptive text.

51. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 50, wherein the descriptive text describes the search criteria.

52. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the computer system to display the first meta-folder, the conventional objects that satisfy the corresponding search criteria, and any conventional objects otherwise associated with the first meta-folder on a single screen of the user interface.

53. (Canceled)

54. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the first meta-folder includes associated objects that correspond to music files.

55. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 54, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the computer system to initiate playing the music files.

56. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 54, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the computer system to generate graphical representations that indicate whether the music files are owned or un-owned.

57. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 54, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the computer system to initiate a purchase of one or more of the music files.

58. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 54, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the computer system to provide a link from which the user can purchase the music.

59. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer readable storage medium storing instructions that when executed by a computer system connected to a network are capable of causing the computer system to:

define a meta-folder graphical element type on the computer system, wherein the meta-folder graphical element type permits the association of 1) one or more search objects having corresponding search criteria and 2) one or more conventional objects with an instantiation of the meta-folder graphical element type on the computer system;

display, via a first graphical interface of the computer system, a first graphical representation of a first meta-folder instantiated on the computer system;

upon selection of the first graphical representation of the first meta-folder via the first graphical interface:

initiate searching the computer system, a local area network, and the Internet for conventional objects that satisfy the search criteria for any search objects associated with the first meta-folder; and

display, via the first graphical interface, graphical elements representing 1) conventional objects located as a result of the searching and 2) any conventional objects otherwise associated with the first meta-folder.

60-72. (Canceled)

73. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 59, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the computer system to display the first meta-folder; the graphical elements representing representations of the conventional objects located as a result of the searching and conventional other objects otherwise associated with the first meta-folder in an intermingling manner within on the first graphical representation of the first meta-folder interface.

74. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising: tangible computer readable medium storing instructions that when executed by an enhanced device connected to a network are capable of causing the enhanced device to:

a processor;

a memory storing program instructions that are computer executable by the processor to:

cause the display of a first meta-folder containing a first search object, wherein a meta-folder is a graphical element type associative with search objects and conventional objects, each search object having corresponding search criteria;

receive a command to open the first meta-folder;

in response to receiving the command to open the first meta-folder, initiate searching the network and the apparatus enhanced device for conventional objects that satisfy the search criteria corresponding to search objects in the first meta-folder, including search criteria corresponding to the first search object; and

cause the display of graphical representations of the conventional objects that result from the searching and any conventional objects otherwise associated with the first meta-folder.

75. (Currently Amended) The apparatus tangible computer readable medium of claim 74, wherein the apparatus enhanced device is a personal digital assistant.

76. (Currently Amended) The apparatus tangible computer readable medium of claim 75, wherein the program instructions are further capable of executable to cause[[ing]] the personal digital assistant to display, within the displayed first meta-folder, the graphical representations of the conventional objects that result from the searching[[.]] and graphical representations of other conventional objects otherwise associated with the first meta-folder in an intermingling manner on a user interface of the personal digital assistant.

77. (Currently Amended) The apparatus tangible computer readable medium of claim 74, wherein the apparatus enhanced device is a web-access enabled portable telephone.

78. (Currently Amended) The apparatus tangible computer readable medium of claim 77, wherein the program instructions are further capable of executable to cause[[ing]] the web-access enabled portable telephone to display, within the displayed first meta-folder, the graphical representations of the conventional objects that result from the searching[[,]] and graphical representations of other conventional objects otherwise associated with the first meta-folder in an intermingling manner on a user interface of the portable telephone.

79. (Currently Amended) The apparatus tangible computer readable medium of claim 74, wherein the apparatus enhanced devicee is an audio player.

80. (Currently Amended) The apparatus tangible computer readable medium of claim 79, wherein the program instructions are further capable of executable to cause[[ing]] the audio player to display, within the displayed first meta-folder, the graphical representations of the conventional objects that result from the searching[[,]] and graphical representations of other conventional objects otherwise associated with the first meta-folder in an intermingling manner on a user interface of the audio player.

81-89. (Canceled)

90. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer readable storage medium storing instructions that when executed by a computer system are capable of causing the computer system to:

display at least one meta-folder, wherein the meta-folder is a graphical element type that permits association with objects including search objects having corresponding search criteria upon opening the meta-folder,

search for conventional objects that satisfy the search criteria, and

display conventional objects resulting from the search; and

display together with the conventional objects resulting from the search at least one static conventional object to which the meta-folder statically points, wherein the at least one static conventional object is unrelated to the search.

91. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 90, wherein the instructions permit search objects and static conventional objects to be dragged and dropped into and out of the meta-folder.

92-93. (Canceled)

94. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a processor;

a memory;

a display unit;

wherein the memory stores program instructions executable by the processor to:

cause the display of a representation of an instantiation of a first graphical element type associated[[blc]] with a search object[[s]] and a first set of conventional objects; wherein the search object has corresponding search criteria, and wherein the first set of conventional objects are unrelated to the search criteria;

upon selection of the instantiation of the first graphical element type—cause an icon representing a search object along with one or more icons representing a first set of conventional objects to be displayed in a window of the display unit, wherein the search object has corresponding searching criteria;

initiate resolution of the search object by searching for additional conventional objects that satisfy the searching criteria; and

cause the icons representing the first set of one or more conventional objects along with icons representing the additional conventional objects that satisfy the searching criteria to be displayed within the representation of the instantiation of the first graphical element type in the window of the display unit.

95-101. (Canceled)

102. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

causing displaying a meta-folder to be displayed, wherein the meta-folder is an instantiation of a graphical element type that is associated[[ble]] with one or more search objects and one or more conventional objects that are not related to the one or more search objects, wherein the meta-folder is associated with at least one or more search objects have[[ing]] corresponding search criteria, and wherein the meta-folder is associable with conventional objects that do not result from searching corresponding to the at least one search object;

receiving a command to open the meta-folder;

in response to receiving the command to open the meta-folder:

[[,]] initiating searching a first computing device and a network coupled to the computing device for conventional objects that satisfy the search criteria corresponding to the one or more search objects; and

causing the display[[ing]] of icons representing the conventional objects that result from the searching and the one or more conventional objects that are associated with the meta-folder but that are not related to the one or more search objects.

103. (Canceled)

104. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 102, wherein the network includes a local area network, a wide area network or the Internet and the network includes a collection of storage systems storing one or more conventional objects.

105. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 102, further comprising transferring the meta-folder via the network.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 105, wherein the transfer occurs through electronic mail.

107. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 102, wherein the conventional objects that result from the searching include conventional folders, conventional files, electronic mail, notes, contact or address book items or files containing text, audio or video information.

108. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the first meta-folder includes at least one search object and at least one conventional object that to which the first meta-folder statically points to.

109. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer-readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein the first meta-folder includes at least one search object, and wherein the first meta-folder does not statically point to any conventional objects.

110. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 23, wherein any conventional objects that have been associated with the first meta-folder have been associated by being moved into the first meta-folder in response to input received via the first graphical interface; and

wherein the graphical elements representing 1) any conventional objects located as a result of the searching and 2) any conventional objects otherwise associated with the first meta-folder are movable out of the first meta-folder in response to input received via the first graphical interface.

111. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 59, wherein any conventional objects that have been associated with the first meta-folder have been associated by being moved into the first meta-folder in response to input received via the first graphical interface; and

wherein the graphical elements representing 1) any conventional objects located as a result of the searching and 2) any conventional objects otherwise associated with the first meta-folder are movable out of the first meta-folder in response to input received via the first graphical interface.

112. (Currently Amended) The apparatus tangible computer readable medium of claim 74, wherein any conventional objects that have been associated with the first meta-folder have been associated by being moved into the first meta-folder in response to received input; and wherein 1) the graphical representations representing any conventional objects located as a result of the searching and 2) graphical representations representing any conventional objects otherwise associated with the first meta-folder are movable out of the first meta-folder in response to received input.

113. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 94, wherein any the first set of conventional objects that have been associated with the instantiation of the first graphical element type have been associated by being moved into the instantiation in response to received input; and

wherein the icons representing the first set of conventional objects and [[1]] any conventional objects located as a result of the searching and 2) any conventional objects associated with the instantiation of the first graphical element type are movable out of the instantiation of the first graphical element in response to user input.

114. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 102,

wherein any the one or more conventional objects that are not related to the one or more search objects that have been associated with the first meta-folder have been associated with the first meta-folder by being moved into the first meta-folder in response to input received via a first graphical interface; and

wherein 1) the icons representing any the conventional objects located as a result of from the searching and 2) the icons representing any the one or more conventional objects that are not related to the one or more search objects associated with the first meta-folder are movable out of the first meta-folder in response to input received via the first graphical interface.

115. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 59, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the computer system to initiate a transfer of the first meta-folder via the network.

116. (Currently Amended) The apparatus tangible computer readable medium of claim 74, wherein the program instructions are further capable of executable causing the enhanced device to initiate a transfer of the first meta-folder via the network.

117. (Cancelled)

118. (Currently Amended) The tangible computer readable storage medium of claim 90, wherein the instructions are further capable of causing the computer system to initiate a transfer of the meta-folder via a network coupled to the computer system.

119. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 94, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the processor to transfer the instantiation of the first graphical element type via a network coupled to the system.

120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 102, further comprising transferring the first meta-folder from the first computing device to a second computing device via the network.